

Serial No. 09/771,243

IN THE WRITTEN CONSENT

Please amend the application to state:

Patent No. 6,055,732 and the present application have not been assigned.

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REMARKS

Examiner Payer has rejected claims 14, 18 and 19 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 112. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Payer for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the claims of the present application and an indication of the allowance of claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, 15-17 and 20 and the allowability of claims 2, 10 and 14 if rewritten.

The undersigned also wishes to extend appreciation for the courtesies extended in a telephonic interview held on February 20, 2007. The substance of that telephonic interview is hereby confirmed and expanded upon.

Claims 2 and 10 have been amended to replace "thereof" with --of the rod--.

Claim 14 has been amended to replace "in the side in which the arcuate notch is defined" with --therein--.


Claim 18 has been canceled.

Examiner Payer in the February 20th interview agreed that claim 19 was properly dependent upon claim 17 and the rejection of 35 U.S.C. § 112 would be withdrawn with respect thereto.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or telephone interview, she is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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